

Information is needed by your funeral director. To assist yourself, you may wish to complete this form and take it with you when you make your arrangements.

PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE DECEASED

NAME OF DECEDENT

Sex

Race

Date of Birth

Ethnicity

Birthplace

Name and Birthplace of Father

Citizen of What Country

Social Security Number

Marital Status

Name of Surviving Spouse

Primary Occupation

Number of Years in this Occupation

Employer

Kind of Industry or Business

Usual Residence

City - Town

County

State

Zip

County of San Bernardino  
SHERIFF – CORONER

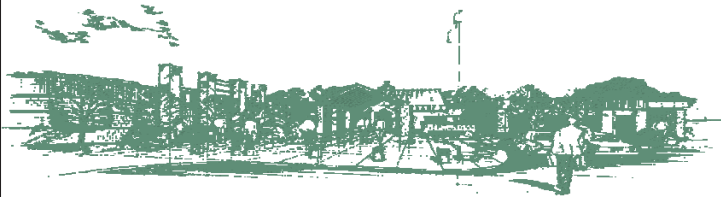
Central Division  
175 South Lena Road  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0037  
(909) 387-2978  
Fax (909) 387-2989

Desert Division  
15329 Bonanza Road, Suite B  
Victorville, CA 92392-2401  
(760) 955-8535  
Fax (760) 955-7977

Colorado River Division  
121 “F” Street, Suite 3  
Needles, CA 92363  
(760) 326-4825  
Fax (760) 326-4246



A message from  
**GARY PENROD**  
Sheriff – Coroner  
County of San Bernardino



### *A Special Message . . .*

On behalf of the San Bernardino County Sheriff–Coroner, we extend deepest sympathy to you at this time. To assist you during this difficult time, we have prepared this pamphlet to answer some of the commonly asked questions.

### *Where is my loved one being taken?*

The deceased is being removed to either the County Sheriff–Coroner’s facility in San Bernardino or, under certain conditions, to the mortuary of your choice. The Sheriff–Coroner will indicate on the back of this pamphlet the location of the deceased.

### *Can I come see him/her there?*

The visitation of the loved one is done at the funeral home. No visitation is permitted at the County Sheriff–Coroner’s facility.

### *What do I do now?*

Contact the funeral director of your choice and advise him/her what has transpired.

### *Can I contact the Sheriff Coroner’s Division?*

Certainly, you may call (909) 387-2978 any time.

### *Is an autopsy always performed?*

Not always. If the death is a “natural death” and the deceased has a physician who knows the medical cause of death and will furnish the Sheriff–Coroner with an acceptable cause, the Sheriff–Coroner will normally not perform an autopsy.

### *Does the deceased have to be embalmed?*

No. It is sometimes recommended to preserve the remains and is better for viewing by the family.

### *Why are autopsies performed?*

There are a number of reasons autopsies are performed. However, the basic reason is to determine the medical cause of death. Another reason is to gather

evidence for presentation in a court of law. At a later date, you may be glad we obtained this information for you.

### *Is there a charge for autopsies?*

There is no charge for an autopsy when it is part of the Sheriff–Coroner’s investigation.

### *Are there transportation fees?*

Yes. Government Code Section 27472 authorizes the Sheriff–Coroner’s Division to assess up to \$185.00 for removal.

### *When can I have the funeral?*

The Sheriff–Coroner will complete his investigation as soon as possible and release the remains to the funeral home of the family’s choice. The funeral director will work closely with the Sheriff–Coroner’s Division and should be able to assist you in setting the time and date for the funeral.

### *Why is the Sheriff–Coroner involved in the death of my loved one?*

The following is a list of the deaths the Sheriff–Coroner is required by law to investigate:

1. Unattended deaths (no physician in attendance or during the continued absence of the attending physician).
2. Wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days prior to death.
3. Physician unable to state the cause of death (unwillingness does not apply).
4. Known or suspected homicide.
5. Known or suspected suicide.
6. Involving any criminal action or suspicion of a criminal act.
7. Related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.
8. Associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature.
9. Following an accident or injury (primary or contributory). Deaths unknown or suspected

which resulted in whole or in part from a related accident or injury, either old or recent.

10. Drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, starvation, exposure, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, or aspiration.
11. Accidental poisoning (food, chemical, drug, therapeutic agents).
12. Occupational diseases or occupational hazards.
13. Known or suspected contagious disease and constituting a public hazard.
14. All deaths in operating rooms and all deaths where a patient has not fully recovered from an anesthetic, whether in surgery, recovery room, or elsewhere.
15. In prison or while under sentence.
16. All deaths of unidentified persons.
17. Suspected sudden infant death syndrome (crib deaths).
18. All deaths of state hospital patients.

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I hope this pamphlet has been of some help to you. I again extend my sincere sympathy to you during this most difficult time. I assure you your loved one will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity. The essence of a Sheriff–Coroner’s Inquiry is to search for the truth. The impartial medicolegal investigation helps to support and protect the public.

The enclosed business card contains the name of the investigator to whom you should direct any inquiries.

Please be assured my office is at your service. If you have any other questions, please call (909) 387-2978.

Sincerely,



GARY PENROD,  
Sheriff–Coroner  
County of San Bernardino